



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner indicated that the EDA met prior to the regular City Council meeting, during which Jahn Dyvik was appointed as EDA Chair and Lori Goodsell was appointed as EDA Vice-Chair for 2021. The EDA also heard a presentation by Water's Edge Dental DBA Lakeside Family Dentistry about a potential development plan for the 1905 W Wayzata Boulevard site. He noted that the EDA is expecting a similar presentation from another interested party at their meeting next month. Other than that, he reflected that the City has been fairly quiet for the last few weeks.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Receive Minutes of December 29, 2020 Special EDA Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of December 29, 2020 Special City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of January 5, 2021 City Council Work Session
- D. Approve Minutes of January 5, 2021 City Council Meeting
- E. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- F. Appoint Planning Commission Member Roger Adams as Chair and Member Steve Keating as Chair Pro-Tempore of the Planning Commission for 2021
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-03 Conditionally Appointing Christopher Spencer and Michael Johnsrud to the Position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of Long Lake Fire Department
- H. Promote Hue Alexander and Matt Kulseth to the Position of Non-Probationary Firefighter for the Long Lake Fire Department
- I. Reappoint, Appoint and Promote Candidates to Long Lake Fire Department Officer and Coordinator Positions
- J.** Accept the Resignation of Public Works Maintenance Worker Mike Belland

Council member Kvale asked about the resignation of Mike Belland from the Public Works Department.

Public Works Director Diercks explained that Mr. Belland resigned last week because he has accepted a position with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in their Watertown office. He wishes nothing but the best for Mr. Belland as he pursues his future endeavors.

Council member Joyce asked about getting notes from the Cloquet Fire meeting that was previously mentioned by Chief Van Eyll.

Chief Van Eyll apologized for taking so long to get that information to the Council. He noted that he had to dig through some old emails and had forwarded it to the Council earlier in the evening.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Kvale, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence, and no written comments were received to be read aloud by staff.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approve Revised City of Long Lake Investment Policy to Include Municipal Bonds as Permitted Investments

City Administrator Weske recalled that in February 2020 the Council had voted to switch to Oppenheimer and Company, Inc. to manage the City's investments. He noted that the current investment policy was last revised in March of 2002 and only allows funds to be invested in US treasuries and securities, CDs and money markets. Staff is requesting the Council consider approval of a revision to the policy in order to allow State and local securities, which are also referred to as municipal bonds, as permitted investments. He added that Jack Fay from Oppenheimer and Company, Inc. is on the Zoom call if the Council has any questions.

Council member Dyvik asked what the return is on the municipal bonds.

Jack Fay, Oppenheimer and Company, Inc. explained the market conditions and reasoning for suggesting the investment policy be revised at this time. He noted that 5-year CDs are around 0.4 to 0.5 percent and a five-year taxable municipal bond for a city such as Minnetonka is probably in the 0.7 to 0.8 percent area. He noted that about half of the City's current portfolio has rates above 2%, so the City has locked in some nice rates in the past.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to adopt the revised City of Long Lake Investment Policy dated January 19, 2021. Ayes: all by roll call.

Consider a Letter of Support for Exploring Opportunities of a Regional Fire Service District

Fire Chief Van Eyll reported that the Fire Chiefs from Maple Plain, Loretto and Hamel along with City Administrators from most of the cities that those fire departments cover have met a few times to discuss and explore options for establishment of a fire service protection district. The City of Medina had a study commissioned regarding fire services last year that was finalized at the end of the year. He indicated that they had met with representatives from the State Fire Marshal's office in November to discuss the findings of the study and figure out next steps. He explained that one of the next steps is for cities that are interested in the concept to put forth a letter in support of exploring opportunities for a regional fire service district. He noted that the letter of support does not commit the City to the concept, but just expresses support and interest in maintaining involvement in this exploration. He stated that prior to COVID-19, he and City Administrator Weske

along with the Medina City Administrator went to the Capitol and met with Representative Hertaus and Senator Osmek to talk about authoring legislation for fire districts with taxing authority.

Mayor Miner asked if the legislative representatives have authored any legislation regarding creation of fire districts.

Van Eyll replied that they had not authored legislation for this session. He stated that they will have to follow up with them to see if they remain interested in furthering this legislation.

Mayor Miner recalled that there was a Fire Advisory Board meeting last week where this topic was also discussed. He confirmed that Medina is very interested; however, Orono does not appear to be interested. He suggested that the City contact Orono's new interim City Administrator to see about the possibility of bringing this back to the Orono Council.

Council member Dyvik asked if Maple Plain would also be pursuing this path.

City Administrator Weske explained that this initiative began with about seven cities having these conversations and it appears now that Independence may not want to be involved. He suspects it will narrow down to more of a north/south district. He stated that he had a conversation with Orono's interim City Administrator earlier today and believes that conversations should move ahead with the thought that the Orono land mass will not be part of the district modeling.

Mayor Miner stated that the Mayor of Medina will be sending out a letter to the Mayors and Councils of surrounding cities in the near future inviting them to participate in the discussions about this issue.

The Council discussed the letter of support prepared by staff and the possible initial up-front costs for some of the cities that will need to invest in facilities or equipment.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to direct the City Administrator to send the letter dated January 19, 2021 to the City of Medina expressing support for their investigation of a regional fire protection district concept, stating Long Lake's interest in continued involvement in fire district modeling discussions. Ayes: all by roll call.

Van Eyll encouraged the Council to contact him if they had any questions about the information regarding the regional fire district.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consider Refunding 2021 Liquor License Fees to Restaurants - Council member Dyvik stated that there was a suggestion made by Tim Hultmann at the earlier EDA meeting that the City should consider waiving the 2021 Liquor License fees for the City's restaurants and have the EDA make up the lost revenue to the City with EDA funds. Weske clarified that this would apply to five license holders and amount to about \$31,000 in budgeted liquor license fee revenue. Council member Dyvik asked what the City had done in 2020 to help these businesses. Weske explained that the City had issued two pro-rated refunds to the City's five restaurants with liquor licenses representing refunds for two months of full closure, with each refund being a little over \$500. He noted that for 2021, staff offered a payment agreement arrangement to allow restaurants to pay liquor license fees in quarterly installments rather than a lump sum up front. He stated that this item could be put on the agenda for a future meeting for full discussion and noted that he wants to have more information on available funding sources before an official motion is made.

Council member Kvale suggested the Council waive just six months of the fee rather than the whole 12 months. Council member Dyvik pointed out that the argument could be made that there are other businesses that are hurting for other reasons due to COVID-19.

Weske clarified that the City had prorated and issued partial refunds to restaurants in 2020 because they were completely shut down and could not legally sell any liquor, which is different from many of the other businesses.

Council member Joyce suggested that evaluation of liquor license fees be assessed monthly and adjusted based on the capacity levels. January, for example, would be 50% capacity so the businesses would only owe half of the liquor license fee.

Weske explained that liquor license fees for a coming year are paid in full annually in December for the following year. He noted that he felt the City has been generous in offering the prorated refunds in 2020 and offering installments for 2021.

Chair Dyvik asked if the City had received the full fee for 2021 from all five of the establishments in December of 2020.

Weske responded that two have paid in full and three had chosen the quarterly installment plan.

The Council discussed various ways to provide some relief from the liquor license fees for the City restaurants, directed staff to put this on a future agenda, and asked staff to be prepared to present information on the available funds within the EDA.

Hiring Public Works Employee - Council member Kvale asked if Public Works Director Diercks wanted to fill the position vacated by Mike Belland. Weske stated that he and Public Works Director Diercks are going to get together and compare job descriptions to consider the best way to fill the position. Diercks indicated that they are looking at the possibility of reclassifying that position into two different classes with one being more experienced than the other. He added that he expects to meet with Weske within the next few days to sit down and figure out the best way to move forward.

Fire Service Day - Chief Van Eyll noted that today was the virtual 'Fire Service Day' at the Capitol.

Holbrook Park Rink Update – Diercks commented that Public Works has been very busy dealing with the arrival of winter. Public Works has had difficulty establishing the ice rink at Holbrook Park due to weather conditions which has been very frustrating.

Traffic and Vehicles Ordinance - City Clerk Moeller reported that she has begun work on the traffic and parking ordinance project and noted that it will be a whole chapter overhaul. She stated that she would like the Council to give some consideration to how they feel about on-street overnight parking for future discussion.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator